

CALFED Conjunctive Use Program

FY 2000 Implementation

1. Program Background

CALFED completed an initial inventory of potential conjunctive use opportunities early in 1997. As a result of the concern expressed by many stakeholders regarding the implementation of conjunctive use and groundwater storage, CALFED initiated an outreach program specific to groundwater issues to solicit stakeholder ideas and concerns. These comments were used to develop guiding principles for conjunctive use programs to ensure that local concerns and potential impacts are fully addressed.

More recently, CALFED formed the Conjunctive Use Advisory Team with staff from CALFED agencies and various stakeholders. An initial task of the team was to inquire about local interest for CALFED support on conjunctive use projects. Positive responses were received throughout the state. As a result, a Grant Application Program has been established to help implement locally supported conjunctive use programs that follow CALFED's guiding principles.

2. FY 2000 Funding Priorities

Staff recommendation is to allocate \$2.15 million between two to five conjunctive use projects that will be selected as a result of the Grant Application Process. This recommendation is consistent with CALFED FY 2000 priorities and the Stage 1a priorities since conjunctive use projects are included as part of the Water Management Strategy described in the Revised Phase II Report.

The Water Management Strategy has three broad purposes:

- 1) Develop a menu of water management tools that can be used to attain CALFED's water supply reliability goals
- 2) Identify specific water management tools from this menu which will be implemented in Stage 1 of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program
- 3) Provide a long-term decision making framework for evaluating the success of implementation efforts and for selecting additional tools needed to achieve CALFED's objectives.

Conjunctive use is a specific water management tool that can make a significant contribution in water supply reliability and overall system flexibility.

3. Stakeholder and Public Input

Stakeholder support and public input has been provided through regular meetings of the CALFED Conjunctive Use Advisory Team, which includes representatives from various water agencies and interest groups. The Team has developed a draft Grant Application Package that is currently being reviewed by CALFED counsel.

Project selection will be made by a Selection Committee made up of CALFED staff and other qualified, but impartial, participants that will review the applications and score them based on specific criteria included in the Grant Application Package. The Selection Committee has not yet been appointed. It is anticipated that two to five projects will be selected for funding.

4. Proposed Method for Distributing Funding

The Conjunctive Use FY 2000 program will use the Grant Application Package solicitation process to distribute funding.

5. Time line

The Conjunctive Use Grant Application Package is currently under review. Provided no significant changes will be made, the Package could be mailed to prospective applicants in December 1999. Responses would be required within two months (February 2000). The Selection Committee would score and rank the applications and make recommendations to the CALFED Executive Director by April 2000.